

LITHUANIA TO GRANT RESIDENCE PERMIT TO EX-SOVIET ACTIVIST

VILNIUS, Jul 11, BNS - Lithuanian Interior Minister Romasis Vaitekunas is set to sign a permission allowing ex-Soviet activist Valeri Ivanov to live in Lithuania. Vaitekunas told reporters Tuesday he saw no grounds to deny Ivanov's request for permanent residence in Lithuania. The minister noted that Ivanov, former leader of the pro-Soviet organization Yedinstvo, was sentenced to three years in prison for participation a failed coup attempt that took place in January 1991, while legislation allowing to deport persons for such a crime was passed only in the fall of the same year. "Can a law be 9 months retroactive?" Vaitekunas asked. Last year, the Migration Department ordered Ivanov and three other ex-Soviet activists to leave Lithuania on the grounds of threatening the country's security and public order. The four were to be deported by force, but the move was blocked by Minister Vaitekunas.

LITHUANIAN CRIME RATE UP 16.7 PERCENT IN FIRST HALF OF 1995

VILNIUS, Jul 11, BNS - Reported crime in Lithuania increased by 16.7 percent during the first six months of 1995, compared to the same period in 1994. The higher crime rate was mainly a result of the rapidly growing number of thefts. Around 30,500 offences were reported to Lithuanian law enforcement agencies including about 21,000 cases of theft, 22.8 percent more than last year. The number of serious crimes was up only 1.8 percent. There were 258 cases of murder and attempted murder, 5 more than during the first half of 1994.

BALTICS TO TAKE PART IN MILITARY EXERCISE IN U.S.

TALLINN, Jul 13, BNS - Soldiers from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as units from 11 other former Soviet bloc nations will practice and develop their combined peacekeeping skills alongside NATO soldiers during an exercise at a base in the southeast United States in August. The exercise, called Cooperative Nugget 95, will be held at the joint readiness training center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, from Aug. 6 through Aug. 28. This is the sixth military exercise to be conducted as part of NATO's Partnership for Peace program and the first of its kind on U.S. soil. Cooperative Nugget will be a field-training exercise, involving resolution of a fictional border dispute between two countries. The training will be conducted in accordance with current U.S. army, NATO and U.N. training methodology.